

Author response to reviewer's comments

We would like to thank the two anonymous reviewers and Dr Benner for the helpful, constructive suggestions and positive comments. In the revised version of our manuscript, the suggestions are addressed as already mentioned in our previous response (May 7th).

Apart from minor editorial changes, we also implemented a few additional changes:

- We added numbers for the degradation rates in the abstract.
- We corrected a mistake in the calculations of the degradation rate (in Table 2). Relative changes and general conclusions were not affected by these changes.
- We followed an additional advice by Paul del Giorgio and added a sentence about the calculation of the bacterial growth efficiency.
- In chapter 4.2 we added an additional statement on how we estimated the carbon-proportion in TEP.